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December 24, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDY ←  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Intelligence Information on Cuban  
Military Posture

The enclosed information on the military posture in Cuba is planned for release to the press on a background basis following conclusion of the prisoner exchange negotiations. While basic responsibility for the release of this material remains with State, Mr. Manning will coordinate release with the Department of Defense, Mr. Sylvester, and CIA.

William H. Brubeck  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure:

As stated.

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BLOC ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO CUBA:

MIG jet fighters -- over 100, mostly 15s, 17s, & 19s, but does include 39 high performance MIG 21s.

Medium & heavy tanks -- about 350, plus some light amphibious tanks and a variety of armored personnel carriers, scout cars as well as a collection of US and UK medium and small tanks, armored cars and scout cars to which Castro fell heir.

Assault guns -- 75 pieces.

Field artillery -- about 1,300 pieces, ranging from quad 14.5 mm field guns to 152 mm howitzers. In addition, Cuba has about 37 non-bloc field pieces.

Anti-aircraft artillery -- about 700 guns.

Mortars -- about 800 from the bloc and about 150 from the US and Italy.

Small arms - about 300,000.

Missiles -- 144 SA-2 launchers and an estimated 500 missiles at 24 sites. (like the MIG 21s, Soviet personnel presumably operate these weapons.) Also 8-10 coastal defense cruise (35 n.m.) missiles launchers with an estimated 40 missiles at 4 or 5 sites.

Military transport -- between 7,500 and 10,000 trucks (1/4-ton to 10 ton capacity) from the bloc and about 1,500 US trucks and cars.

Helicopters -- about 70 from the bloc and 12 from the US.

Propeller aircraft -- 18-20 Soviet IL-14 and LI-2 transports, plus miscellaneous warcraft including 17 US B-26s and 10 UK Sea Fury fighter-bombers.

Naval craft -- 12 KOMAR-class cruise missile boats (each with two short range missiles), six KRONSTADT-class subchasers, 16 motor torpedo boats, and several small patrol and service craft. In addition Cuba has about 50 small patrol craft from the US as well as fishing and pleasure boats that have been armed for patrol use.

To use this equipment, Cuba can muster over a quarter-million in the armed forces. About 75,000 can be counted in the standing army and the balance in the ready reserve and the homeguard militia.

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